



Educational Topic

Commercial Airline Flight Planner

Related Job Titles:

Flight Plan Delivery, Flight Plan Associate, Flight Engineer

Job Description:

The Commercial Airline Flight Planner works for the various commercial airline and charter aircraft companies and work from each companies' designated work station around the United States. Using their comprehensive knowledge of weather charts and weather maps, as well as their expertise in aeronautical chart reading, they gather current and predictive data to plan the many flight routes that aircraft for their company will be flying that day. These flight plans include the route, updated weather data to be expected along the way, sectors and Centers through which the aircraft will fly, airspeed, and departure and arrival times.

Interests / Abilities:

- Do you enjoy figuring out what route to take when preparing for vacation?
- When looking at a map, can you quickly see more than one route to a destination?
- Are you patient when it comes to completing forms requiring detailed information?
- Is reading and understanding charts with special symbols is easy for you?
- Can you solve problems regardless of the pressure to meet a deadline?
- Are you able to visualize a 2-dimensional picture in a 3-dimensional way?
- Is it easy for you to use a computer to get information and to help solve problems?
- Do you have excellent written skills and the ability to provide clear, concise directions?

Education / Training Needed:

Completion of a 4-year degree program from an accredited college or university is required before airline company training. You must pass an airline company aptitude test and successfully complete airline company flight plan training.

Suggested School Subjects / Courses:

- Physics
- Aeronautics or the science of flight
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Meteorology
- Geography and mapping
- English composition
- Computer database usage

Areas of expertise:

- *Thorough knowledge of the air traffic management system and the FAA regulations*
- *Weather phenomena and its effects on flight*
- *Knowledge of US weather patterns*
- *Knowledge of weather data found on charts, graphs, and maps*
- *Flight planning and aeronautical chart reading*

Additional Resources:

- Please take a moment to evaluate this product at:
http://ehb2.gsfc.nasa.gov/edcats/educational_topic
Your evaluation and suggestions are vital to continually improving NASA educational materials.
Thank you.



What can I do right now?

- Join a group like the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and participate in their activities.
 - Learn how to read all types of geographical maps, aeronautical charts, and weather maps and charts.
 - Take a ground school course and some basic pilot training.
 - Get work experience where you have to gather weather data or use aeronautical charts.
 - View the NASA/FAA CD-ROM Gate to Gate to learn more about the air traffic management system. Gate to Gate is available through NASA CORE for a minimum fee. <http://core.nasa.gov>
-
- School of Aviation Science Air Traffic Control
<http://www.aviation.wmich.edu/home.html>
 - Revolutionary Vehicle Concepts and Systems student competition
<http://avst.larc.nasa.gov/competitions.html>
 - Tech-Interns.com
<http://www.tech-interns.com/>